

Products & Services Committee Report

The past year

- Jeff Arnfield recently became the chairperson, after serving on the committee for about 18 months
- Discussions largely centered on issues related to Earth Information Exchange
 - Review of EIE requirements
 - Metadata duplication and how to avoid it
 - Objective data quality measures for both products & services
 - How to categorize and inventory products and services

Observations from this meeting

- Reports from the clusters showed a striking consensus on a couple of issues
 - Most explicitly wanted to actively solicit more end user participation in meetings and in our overall requirements gathering processes
 - Most indicated a need to develop some type inventory
 - Products & services
 - Current projects & other work that could be leveraged
- Metadata is treated as a separate technical track, but in fact it plays a crucial role in virtually all the activities of ESIP and its members. Need more interaction between metadata folks and all other tracks, application & technical.
- The role of metadata goes well beyond discovery, and the increasing recognition of this should help drive metadata content guidelines as well as adoption of standards best suited to the detail needed for long term use and stewardship.

Goals

- Develop work plan, with tangible deliverables
- Increase and broaden participation in the Products & Services Committee
- Increase communication / interaction with other committees and clusters
- Support EIE efforts
- Improve marketing (awareness, applicability, delivery) of ESIP Products and Services
 - Particular interest in vertical market development
 - how can earth science data help solve a particular type of problem
 - what data, tools and services are available
 - Increase interaction with state, local agencies and organizations
 - Also should help attract new members
- Facilitate interoperability of existing & developing
 - Systems
 - Tools
 - Services
- Explore ways to effectively use the Federation's stunning pool of intellectual talent.
 - Consulting
 - Facilitation

Areas of Focus

- Metadata best practices
 - Minimum level of detail
 - Desirable level of detail
 - Applicability of various standards
- Objective quality measures
 - Data
 - Services
- Inventory
 - Categorization
 - Products
 - Services
 - Content
 - Level of detail necessary and practical
- Controlled vocabularies / ontologies for
 - Topics
 - Application
 - Products
 - Parameters
 - Services
- Vertical market development